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PRESS RELEASE

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United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced today that National Crime Victims' Rights Week is scheduled for April 10-16, 2005. This year's theme, "Justice Isn't Served Until Crime Victims Are" emphasizes the importance of providing support and assistance to victims as a critical and core component of justice in America.

This year is the Silver Anniversary of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Twenty-five years ago, President Ronald W. Reagan declared the first National Crime Victims' Rights Week to pay tribute to crime victims and to recognize the devastating impact of violence on individuals, communities and our nation as a whole. In proclaiming the first National Crime Victims' Rights Week in 1981 and then establishing the President's Task Force on Victims of Crime, he stated, "Our commitment to criminal justice goes far deeper than our desire to punish the guilty or to deter those considering a lawless course. Our laws represent the collective moral voice of a free society -- a voice that articulates our shared beliefs about the roles of civilized behavior. Both the observance of Crime Victims' Week and the creation of this task force are entirely consistent with the principles that lie at the heart of our nations belief in freedom under law."

Over 32, 000 laws have been passed at the federal, state and local levels that promote victims' rights and services, including constitutional amendments in 33 states. And today there are 10,000 community and justice system-based organizations that inform and educate victims about their rights, and provide supportive services to help them cope with the physical, emotional, financial and spiritual impact of crime.

During the week of April 10-16, 2005, the 25th anniversary of National Crime Victims' Rights Week will be observed across our nation by victims and survivors and the professionals and volunteers who assist them.

For the fifth year in a row, the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of New York will be hosting an award ceremony on Wednesday, April 13, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. to acknowledge the individuals who have brought honor to crime victims and who have made a significant difference in the lives of people and communities who are affected by crime. The following individuals are receiving awards for their hard work, dedication and assistance in working with victims and witnesses of crime along with acknowledging, preserving, and enforcing victim rights.

Gretchen L. Wylegala --- Assistant United States Attorney.

Louis J. Alessi -- Special Agent, Department of Labor.

Cleophus Weeks -- Federal Probation Officer.

Kim Pettit -- Legal Assistant, United States Attorney's Office

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